

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2011
NR #11-71

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WORLD AIDS DAY 2011 - GET TESTED - STOP THE SPREAD OF HIV

SAN BERNARDINO. World AIDS Day is observed every December 1st to raise awareness and focus attention on the global AIDS epidemic.

One-quarter of people living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in the United States are unaware of their HIV status. Furthermore, these individuals account for more than half of all new infections. However, studies show that people are more likely to seek care for themselves and protect others from becoming infected after becoming aware of their HIV-positive status. "HIV prevention requires a collective community response that matches the severity of the epidemic," said Maxwell Ohikhuare, San Bernardino County Health Officer.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has established a series of recommendations to help ensure that all persons know their HIV status in an effort to help stop the spread of HIV. The CDC recommends that all individuals ages 13-64 know their HIV status and have one HIV screening test as part of routine clinical care. Repeat testing is recommended at least annually for those who engage in risky behaviors such as having multiple sex partners, being diagnosed with other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), sharing needles for any reason, and having unprotected sex with a partner who is not aware of his or her HIV status.

For individuals who do not have access to routine medical care, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health (SBCDPH) offers HIV antibody testing services through the HIV Prevention and Care Program and Clinic Operations. The HIV Prevention and Care Program offers Rapid HIV antibody testing throughout the community via a Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) and at predetermined sites. For dates, times, and locations, please call (909) 388-0400. This particular test method delivers HIV results in 30 minutes or less. As with all screening tests for HIV, positive test results require confirmatory testing, and specific procedures and quality assurance measures are followed to ensure that all clients testing for HIV receive accurate results and effective counseling and referral services.

For more information about HIV testing services, please call the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, HIV Prevention and Care Program at (909) 388-0400, Clinic Operations at (800) 722-4777, or visit www.KnowSBC.com to find a HIV testing location near you.

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